

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14, with the following revised paragraph:

In conventional spark plugs, a columnar center electrode is fixed and electrically isolated in the spark plug housing, while one end of the earth electrode is welded to the ~~housing~~ and the other end of the earth electrode is bent perpendicular to the tip surface of the center electrode, thereby forming a spark gap.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, with the following revised paragraph:

According to the present invention, the reflection illumination employed in the present invention enables to precisely measure and efficiently adjust the above-mentioned off-axis positional difference, although it was difficult to measure the above-mentioned off-axis positional difference by the transmitting illumination due to a leg portion of the earth electrode which stands up from the spark plug ~~housing~~ and hides the spark gap, the reflection illumination as employed in the present invention enables to precisely measure and efficiently adjust the above-mentioned off-axis positional difference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4, with the following revised paragraph:

A spark plug 1 as shown in FIG. 1 has a ~~cylindrical~~ ~~housing~~ ~~cylindrical~~ ~~housing~~ 10 into which a cylindrical ceramics insulator 11 is inserted and fixed therein. Further, a cylindrical center electrode 12 is inserted into a hole around the axis of the insulator 11 and fixed therein. Further, an earth electrode 13 made of Ni alloy is welded to the ~~housing~~ 10. The earth electrode 13 as shown in FIG. 3 comprises: a leg 13a extending parallel to the axis "X" of the center electrode 12; and an opposite portion extending perpendicular to the axis "X". A part of the leg 13a is welded to the ~~housing~~

housing 10. The opposite portion is disposed opposite to the tip 12a of the center electrode 12. A spark gap is formed between the tip 12a and opposite portion 13b.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17, with the following revised paragraph:

Further, the adjustment unit 5 is provided with two chucks 56 for chucking the ~~housing~~ housing 10 of the spark plug 1 from both right and left sides. The chucks 56 are moved back and forth by hydraulic cylinder apparatus 57.